

PERCY L. WALKER

by Gershon Bradford

The naming of the new swimming pool for Percy L. Walker is a gratifying tribute to him whose love of his native town was deep.

We first met around 1885. I had enrolled in the Millbrook school, sitting in a little front seat, while Percy, a big boy, was in the rear. So he was 4 or 5 years older than I. Several years later he, with his younger brother Alpheus, embarked in the chicken business. I recall their yard, the first south of the school, filled with barrels and coops with newly hatched chicks. How those boys accomplished all that work I do not know.

Percy worked at many jobs in his young days. At one time he went to Boston each day to attend a business school. Finally, he took lessons in surveying from a retired civil engineer. His surveying activities easily slid into the real estate business. He handled the renting of 2 houses that my mother owned on Abrams Hill. I had his letters to her. One ran like this.

"I have an inquiry from a Mr. John Doe for your larger house. He was in Duxbury last year and as he was tardy in his rent, I suggest that we do not follow up his inquiry."

Another: "A Mr. Fitzgerald is interested in renting on Abrams Hill. As he has been in Duxbury for several summers and is a thoroughly reliable gentleman I

advise that we try to do business with him."

Percy was elected to the presidency of the Duxbury Rural Society and Historical Society.

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MEN'S CLUB

The Community Men's Club will meet Tuesday, July 29. Early arrivals will gather at the Winsor House. Dinner at 7 p.m. in the parish house of St. John's.

Dr. William Clarke is traveling all the way from Columbus, Ohio, to speak to the club. He is manager of the biological, ecological, and medical sciences department, at Battelle Institute. Battelle is the parent to the William J. Clapp Laboratories, here in Duxbury.

Dr. Clark will talk about his work and research, at Battelle, where 180 people report to him. This includes research involving thousands of animals. His research carries him through a broad spectrum - including cancer, heart, and such things as radiation damage, cellular and tissue damage, and many other fields.

At a recent meeting of the club's officers, it was agreed that extra effort must be made in 2 directions. First, new members will be sought, particularly younger ones. Second, an effort will be made to build up attendance at meetings of existing members. William Smith II, new membership chairman, will be developing promotions towards these objectives.

have been advised by 2 gentlemen in whom I have great respect, that we are not handling our endowment funds to the best advantage. That our bonds and savings bank deposits are suffering from inflation, that we should put a small percentage into high class common stocks. Now I know nothing about investment finance, but I remember my mother sending me to Ford's store for a piece of corned beef, for which I paid 8 cents a pound. Yesterday I went to the market and paid 80 cents and it was not as good." Using corned beef as a symbol he put his finger on the crux of investment finance.

Daniel Webster

The portrait of Daniel Webster came under discussion at one meeting. Webster had close ties with Duxbury. In the summer he employed 30 men on his great Green Harbor farm. He also entertained extensively; sometimes even the large Green Harbor mansion overflowed and guests were lodged with neighbors. Then he hired extra domestic help. Children and even grandchildren, were proud if their forebears had worked for Daniel Webster regardless of their duties. During this discussion Percy, as usual, leaned back in his chair saying: "I am proud that my mother once worked for Daniel Webster. I do not claim that she helped him write his speeches."

One of the last times I saw him, it was in his office. Directly out the window by his desk, was a barrel and hen coop with a mother and her chicks. Percy smiled, "I like to be reminded of the old ways." When he passed, I, with others, lost a life-time and close friend. I am glad that memory of him will be kept fresh and green.

PERCY

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upon the resignation of his older brother Herbert. Before the historical work was added, the members were called the "Rurals." They were the hard core, the substantial group who carried the society along. There were about 35 in attendance and as a rule, the routine ran smoothly. Occasionally some subject aroused them into unseemly controversy. I cannot remember what it was all about, but it involved in some way the exclusiveness of Powder Point. When Percy felt the discussion should be cooled, he leaned back in his chair saying: "I do not fully understand the subject before us, because, until I was 21, my mother never allowed me to go east of the railroad tracks." The argument collapsed in unwonted laughter.

At another meeting Percy made a statement much like this: "I